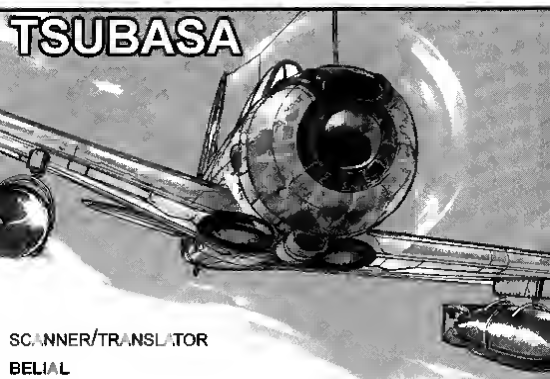
STORM IN HEAVEN
STORMINHEAVEN@IRCHIGHWAY
STORMINHEAVEN.NET

TSUBASA



SCANNER/TRANSLATOR
BELIAL
EDITOR
CASPER-3
PROOF-READER
LELEI

CHAPTER 1

MOTHER I TOOK A STEP
!
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN THE ONLY ONE
LIEUTENANT KAMIYAMA, SGT URAKAWA AND CORPORALS HOSHIKAWA AND FUKISHIMA ALSO HAVE
I'M NOT EXAGGERATING WHEN I SAY JAPAN GIVES ITS FUTURE TO YOUNG PEOPLE SUCH AS YOU
IT WAS A DECISION WE ALL MADE IN AN INSTANT LIKE WE HAD A MACHINE INSIDE OF US AND THOSE MACHINES MOVED SIMULTANEOUSLY
WHO WILL SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES TO SAVE YOUR OWN COUNTRY
VICE-COMMANDER!
IT'S THE TRUTH!
I DIDN'T PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING WORDS OF THE VICE-COMMANDER

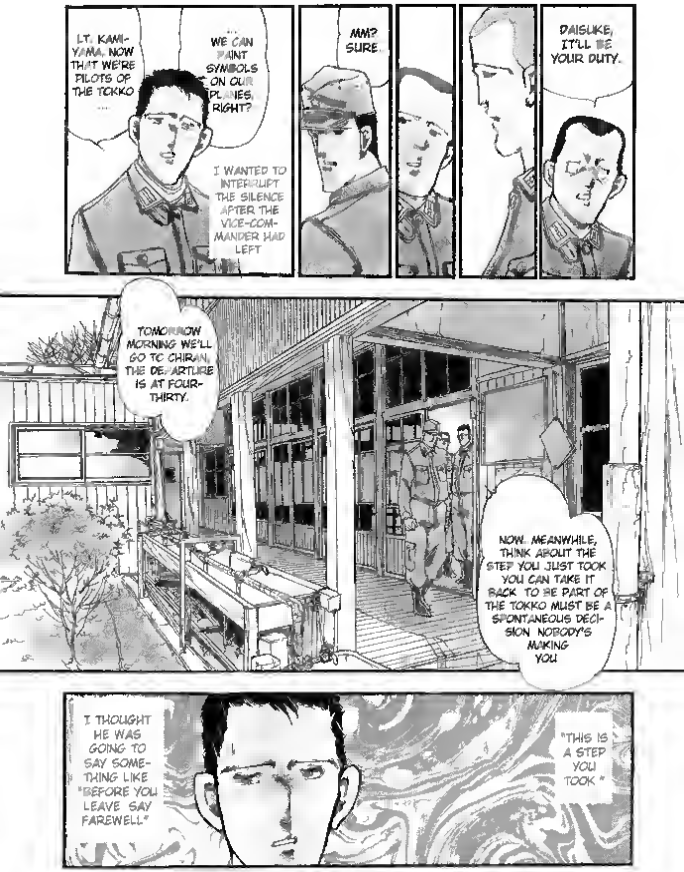
"IF YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE TOKUBETSU KOHGEGI TAI*, TAKE A STEP FORWARD."

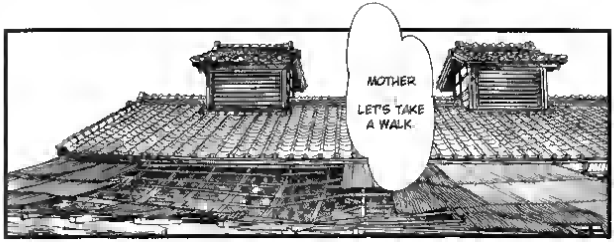
THIS STEP MEANT OUR "BEGINNING" AND OUR "END".

*ALSO KNOWN AS 'TOKKO'. THEY ARE SPECIAL ATTACK SQUADRONS KNOWN IN THE WESTERN WORLD AS KAMIKAZE (WHICH WAS ONE SPECIFIC AND FAMOUS TOKKO)

Episode One

A Step


LT. KAMIYAMA. NOW THAT WE'RE PILOTS OF THE TOKKO ...
... WE CAN PAINT SYMBOLS ON OUR PLANES, RIGHT?
I WANTED TO INTERRUPT THE SILENCE AFTER THE VICE-COMMANDER HAD LEFT
MM? SURE.
DAISUKE, IT'LL BE YOUR DUTY.
TOMORROW MORNING WE'LL GO TO CHIRAN. THE DEPARTURE IS AT FOUR-THIRTY.
NOW, MEANWHILE, THINK ABOUT THE STEP YOU JUST TOOK. YOU CAN TAKE IT BACK. TO BE PART OF THE TOKKO MUST BE A SPONTANEOUS DECISION. NOBODY'S MAKING YOU.
I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE "BEFORE YOU LEAVE, SAY FAREWELL."
"THIS IS A STEP YOU TOOK."


MOTHER
LET'S TAKE A WALK

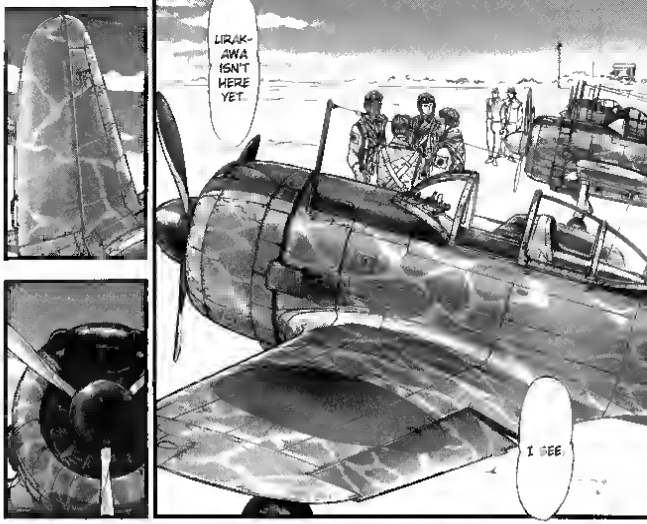
A WALK?
YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE BASE TOMORROW. ISN'T IT BETTER IF YOU GET SOME REST?

THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS HAVE FALLEN ALREADY
NO, SOME ARE STILL THERE. LOOK, THERE'S ONE, NO, TWO
I THOUGHT TO LEAVE WITHOUT TELLING MY MOM

MY MOM CRIES EASILY WHEN SHE GAVE BIRTH TO ME MY FATHER DIED
BUT SOMETIMES SHE'S ASTONISHINGLY STEADY

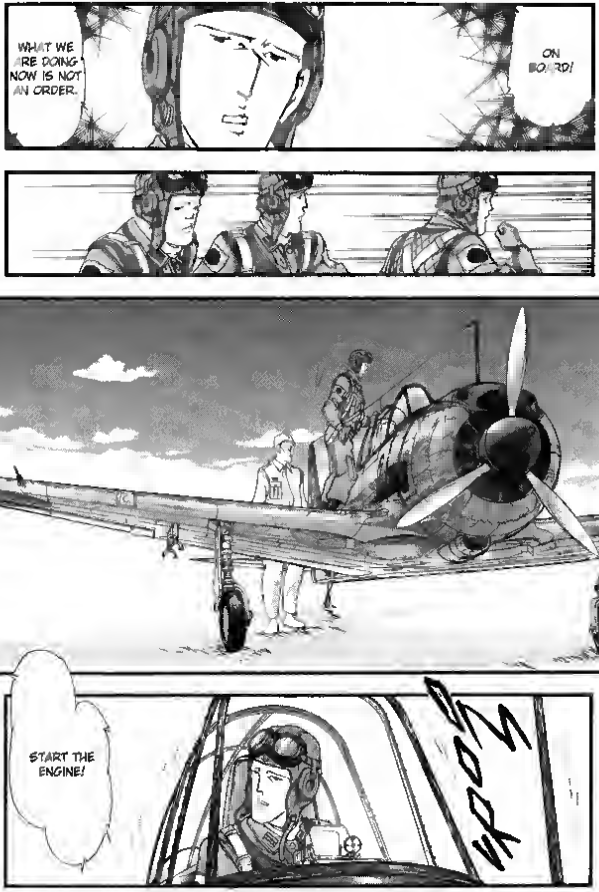
IF I LEFT WITHOUT SAYING A WORD
MAYBE SHE WOULD THINK I HAD LEFT FOR A LONG TRIP

I WONDER IF LIEUTENANT KAMIYAMA IS SAYING HIS GOODBYES TOO
MAYBE HE'S WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND
I HEARD THAT CORPORAL FUKUSHIMA'S HOME IS FAR AWAY MAYBE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HAVE A MOMENT LIKE THIS

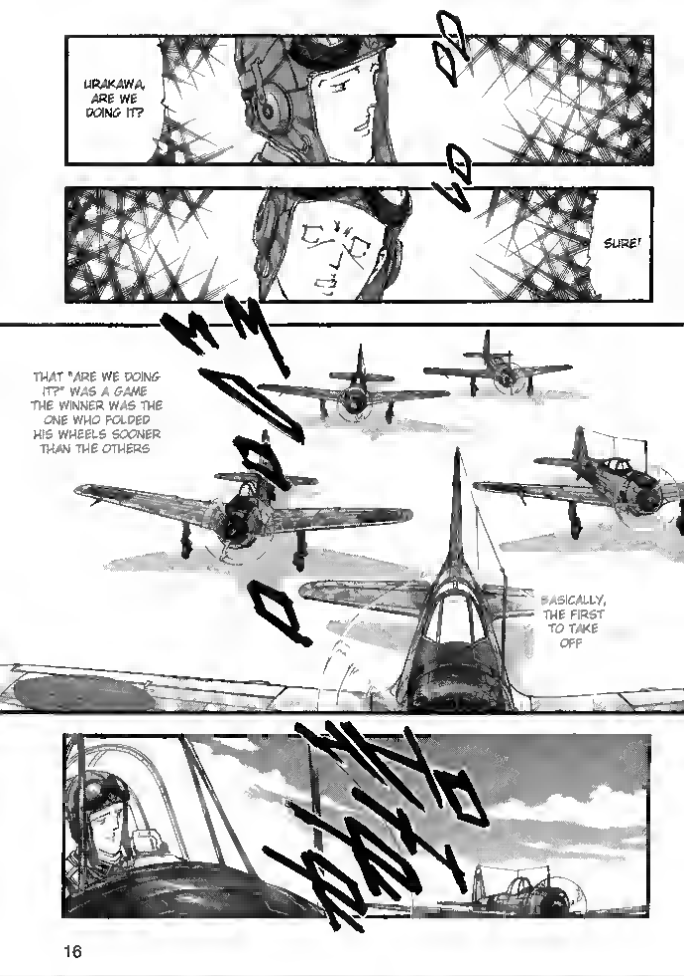

URAKAWA ISN'T HERE YET.
I SEE.

WE'LL LEAVE AT THE HOUR WE SET.
MAYBE URAKAWA CHANGED HIS MIND

WILL HE BE COURT-MARTIALED THEN?


WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW IS NOT AN ORDER.
ON BOARD!
START THE ENGINE!
SORA

HEY, WAIT FOR ME!
VOOM
!
URAK-AWA.
HURRY UP!
VOOM


URAKAWA, ARE WE DOING IT?
SURE!
THAT "ARE WE DOING IT?" WAS A GAME THE WINNER WAS THE ONE WHO FOLDED HIS WHEELS SOONER THAN THE OTHERS
BASICALLY, THE FIRST TO TAKE OFF

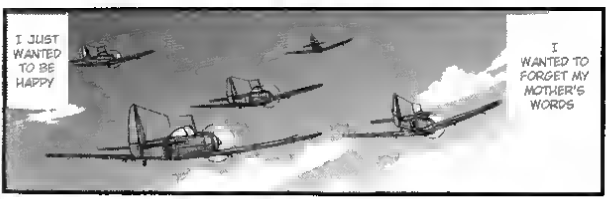
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ

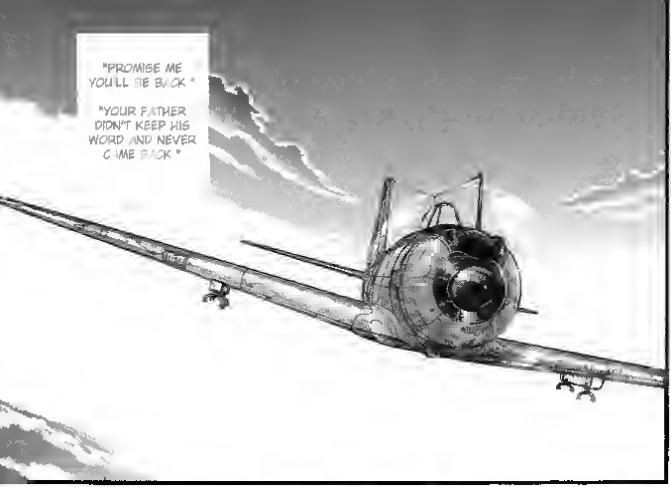
YOU TOOK YOUR CHANCES DAISUKE

I'M

I WON!

STUPID, DYING HERE WOULD BE A WASTE.


I JUST WANTED TO BE HAPPY
I WANTED TO FORGET MY MOTHER'S WORDS


"PROMISE ME YOU'LL BE BACK."
"YOUR FATHER DIDN'T KEEP HIS WORD AND NEVER CAME BACK."

MOTHER, I CAN'T KEEP THAT PROMISE
BECAUSE BEHIND MY STEP THERE WAS YOU

I TOOK THAT STEP TO PROTECT YOU

THIS IS THE FAMOUS TRIAN-GULAR BARRACK
I CAN STILL SMELL THE PEOPLE WHO WERE HERE BEFORE
DAISUKE DURING TAKE-OFF YOU SCRATCHED THE COACHWORK YOU SHOULD HAVE THAT CHECKED
Y-YES
I'M SORRY.
I'M MAJOR CORPORAL NOGUCHI I WILL BE TAKING CARE OF THIS BARRACK

I THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU'RE DOING FOR US
I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT TIME
WHEN WILL YOU ATTACK?
IN FOUR DAYS AT FOUR O'CLOCK WE HAVE EXACTLY ONE HUNDRED HOURS
UNDER-STOOD
ONE HUNDRED HOURS
I WILL BRING YOUR DINNER AT FIVE

I'LL LEAVE NOW.

EXCUSE ME, NOGUCHI!
...
DO YOU HAVE SOME VARNISH?

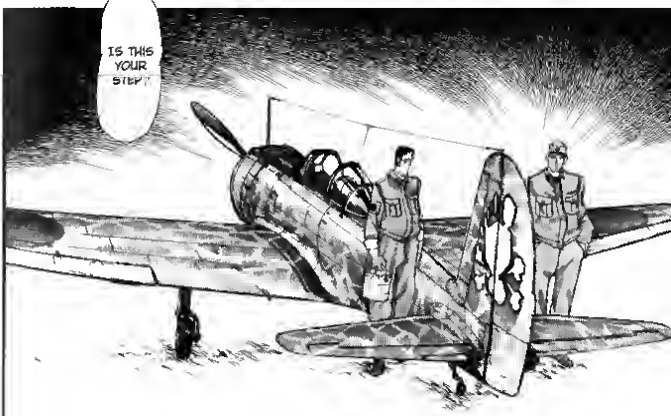
YES.
YOU WANT TO PAINT YOUR PLANE?

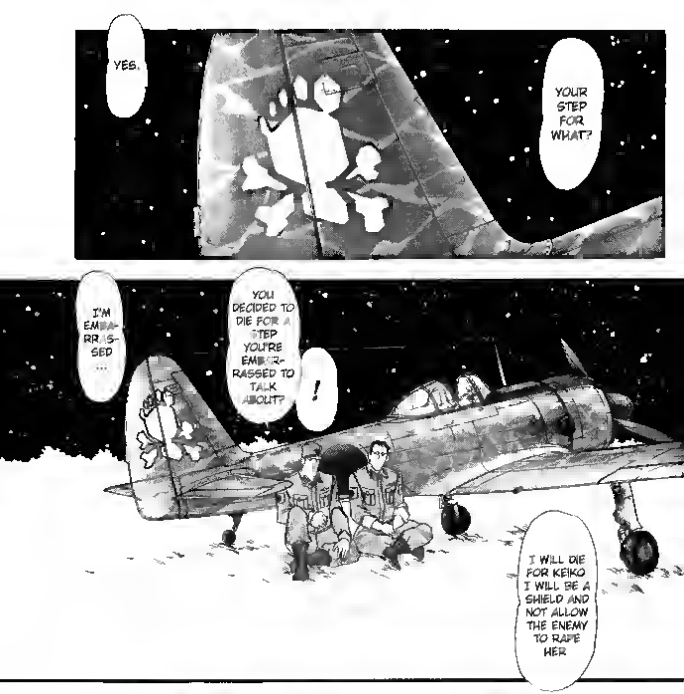
LIEUTENANT, AFTER YOU EAT ...
WHY DON'T WE GO TO THE CITY?
I WOULD LIKE TO DRINK SOME SAKE.
FUKU-SHIMA, DON'T YOU DRINK WHILE EATING?
HIRIKAWA YOU JUST ARRIVED LATE BECAUSE OF THE SAKE.

WHAT DOES THAT SYMBOL MEAN?
...
WELL ...
PLEASE EXCUSE MY MANNERS.
I'M KUSANO, FROM CHIRAN HIGH SCHOOL.
MAYBE OUR COMMANDERS WILL THINK THAT'S THE STEP OF SOMEONE WHO'S CRUSHING THE ENEMY
LIEUTENANT, YOU ALREADY CAME BACK FROM THE CITY?
DAISUKE, I CAN'T LET YOU SLEEP ALONE IN THE BARRACKS
WILL THE OTHERS SLEEP ANYWAY?
YES
WHAT?

MAYBE SHE UNDERSTOOD WHAT WE WERE SPEAKING OF.
SHE'S PROBABLY ONE OF THOSE STUDENTS WHO TAKE CARE OF THE BARRACK

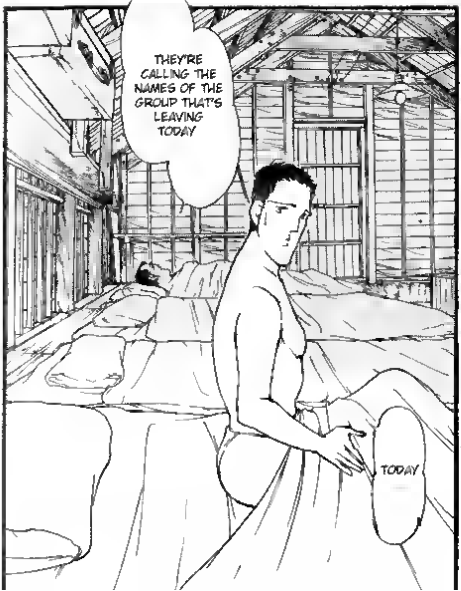
HMM... MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT THE OTHERS WERE SLEEPING OUT TONIGHT.


IS THIS YOUR STEP?


YES.
YOUR STEP FOR WHAT?
I'M EMBA-RRAS-SED ...
YOU DECIDED TO DIE FOR A STEP YOU'RE EMBAR-RASSED TO TALK ABOUT?
!
I WILL DIE FOR KEIKO I WILL BE A SHIELD AND NOT ALLOW THE ENEMY TO RAPE HER

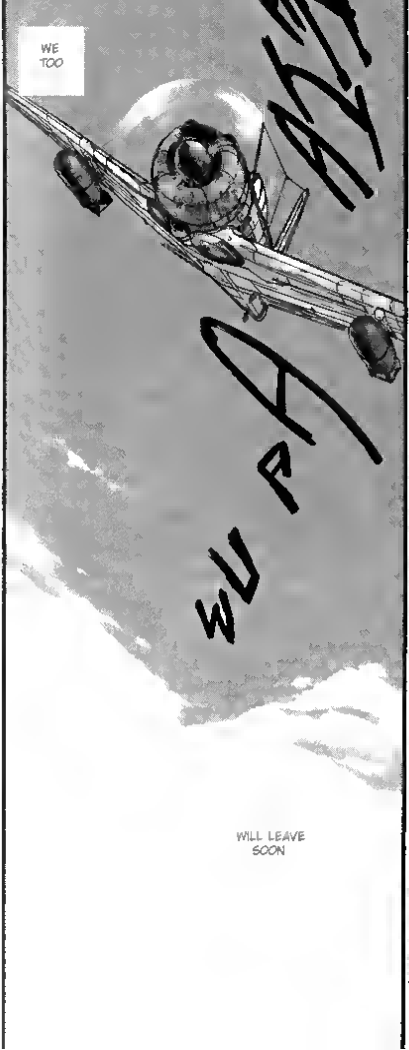
I CERTAINLY WILL NOT DIE FOR THIS COUNTRY
YOU CAN'T DIE WITHOUT A REASON

!


THEY'RE CALLING THE NAMES OF THE GROUP THAT'S LEAVING TODAY
TODAY

SLEEP, IT'S FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

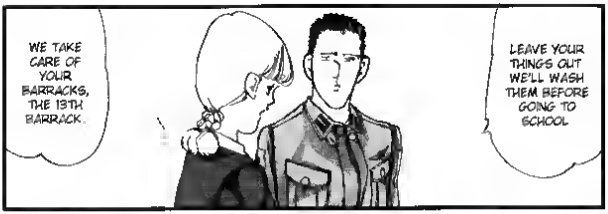
I'M GOING TO SAY FAREWELL TO THEM


WE TOO
WILL LEAVE SOON

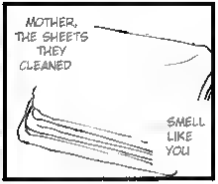
I HEARD THEY CALL THE TEARS YOU CRY WHEN YOU SAY GOODBYE TO THE TOKKO "ARDENT" TEARS
!

HOW LONG

WILL THE ARDENT TEARS KEEP FALLING ?


WE TAKE CARE OF YOUR BARRACKS, THE 13TH BARRACK.
LEAVE YOUR THINGS OUT WE'LL WASH THEM BEFORE GOING TO SCHOOL

ARDENT TEARS
MOTHER I'VE LEARNED A NEW WORD

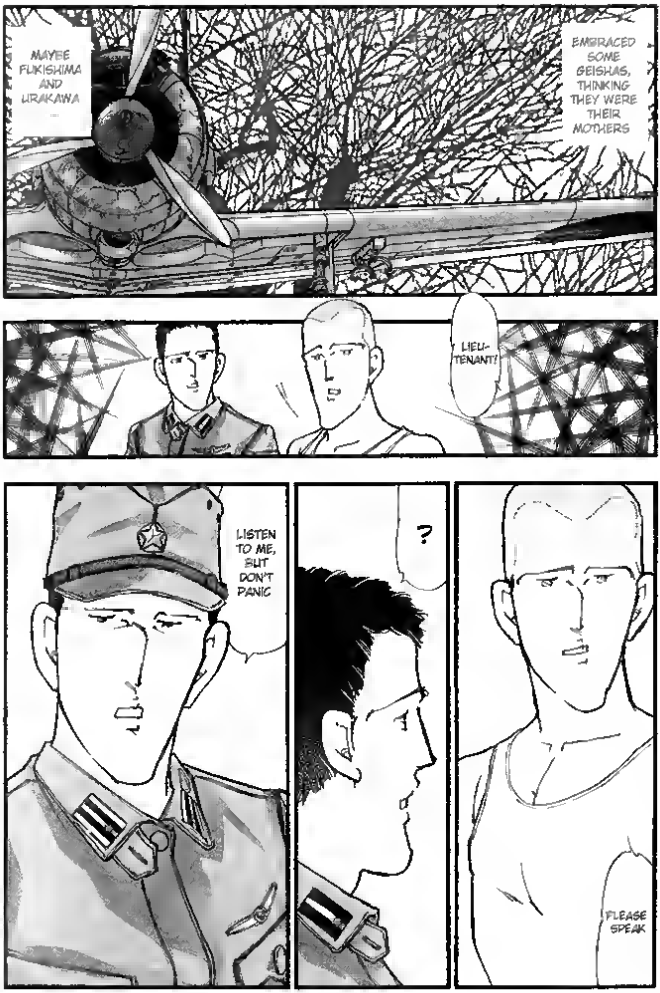

MOTHER, THE SHEETS THEY CLEANED
SMELL LIKE YOU

HOSHI-KAWA
YOU HAD YOUR UNDER-WEAR WASHED TOO?

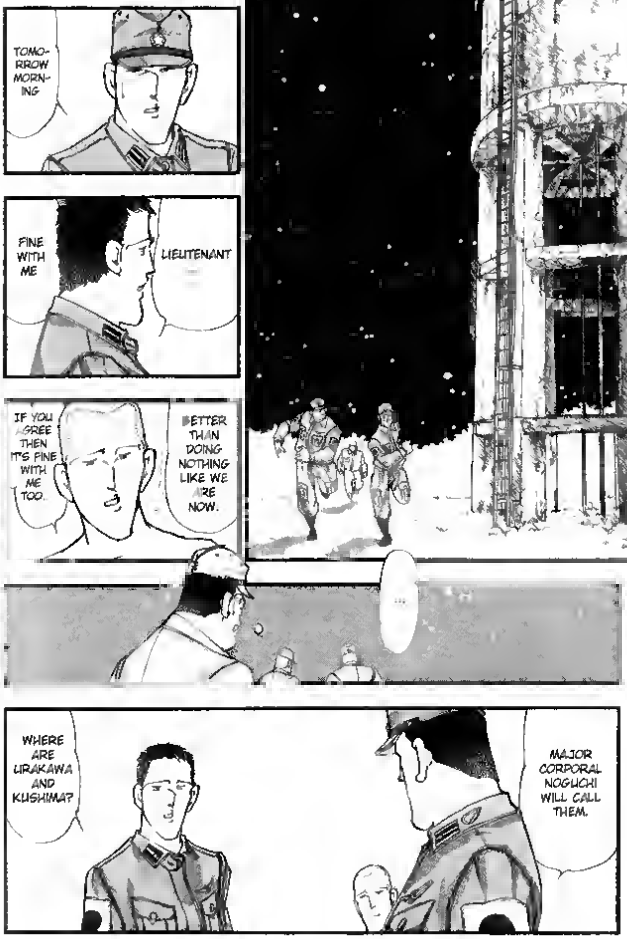
YEAH, THEY INSISTED ON GIVING THEM EVERY-THING

DON'T YOU WANT TO GO OUT TONIGHT?
NO I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING YESTERDAY NIGHT EITHER I JUST SLEPT NEXT TO A GEISHA.
I DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, NOR A MOTHER
IT'S STRANGE WHEN I STARTED REALISING THINGS, MY MOTHER WASN'T THERE ANYMORE, AND I DON'T REALLY MISS HER
BUT NOW, IN THIS SITUATION, I THINK OF HER WITH LOVE
...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER?
AH, HE'S ALIVE.

I DON'T HAVE A FATHER
DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT HIM?
DO YOU WANT TO SEE A PICTURE OF MY MOTHER?
SURE, LET ME SEE IT
NOT TOO OFTEN
MY MOTHER ALWAYS SAID HE WOULD HAVE BECOME SOMEONE IMPORTANT IF THE TIMES HAD BEEN DIFFERENT
SHE'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL!
SHE'S MY MOTHER SO IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO ME WHETHER SHE'S BEAUTIFUL
BUT IT'S BETTER IF SHE'S BEAUTIFUL
YOU THINK SO?
CAN I BORROW IT FOR A DAY?
SURE

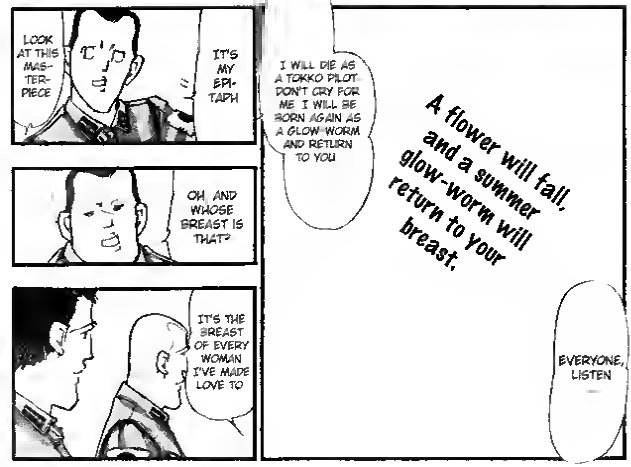

MAYBE FUKISHIMA AND URAKAWA ...
EMBRACED SOME GEISHAS, THINKING THEY WERE THEIR MOTHERS
LIEU-TENANT!
LISTEN TO ME, BUT DON'T PANIC
?
PLEASE SPEAK

ALL THE PLANES THAT TOOK OFF THIS MORNING WERE SHOT DOWN BEFORE THEY COULD REACH THEIR TARGET
AND THE YAMATO HAS BEEN SUNK
!
OUR COMMANDERS ASKED US TO PREPARE FOR OUR DEPARTURE.
PREPARE
WHEN?


TOMO-
RROW
MORN-
ING
FINE
WITH
ME
LIEUTENANT
IF YOU
AGREE
THEN
IT'S FINE
WITH
ME
TOO.
BETTER
THAN
DOING
NOTHING
LIKE WE
ARE
NOW.
WHERE
ARE
URAKAWA
AND
KUSHIMA?
MAJOR
CORPORAL
NOGUCHI
WILL CALL
THEM.

HAVE YOU WRITTEN A WILL YET, DAISUKE?
NO. I DON'T WANT TO WRITE A WILL TO MY MOTHER.
LIEUTENANT, OUR DEPARTURE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED?!
YES
MOTHER, I WAS THINKING ABOUT THAT STEP
NATURALLY, I TOOK IT TO PROTECT YOU.

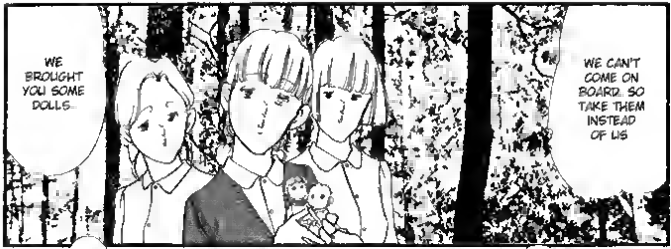
BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A DECISION I MADE.
I HAD THIS FEELING I DID IT LIKE A ROBOT.
BECAUSE MY MATES WERE NEXT TO ME I THINK I DID IT JUST BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE WAS


LOOK AT THIS MASTERPIECE
IT'S MY EPITAPH
OH, AND WHOSE BREAST IS THAT?
IT'S THE BREAST OF EVERY WOMAN I'VE MADE LOVE TO
I WILL DIE AS A TOKKO PILOT DON'T CRY FOR ME I WILL BE BORN AGAIN AS A GLOW-WORM AND RETURN TO YOU
A flower will fall, and a summer glow-worm will return to your breast.
EVERYONE, LISTEN

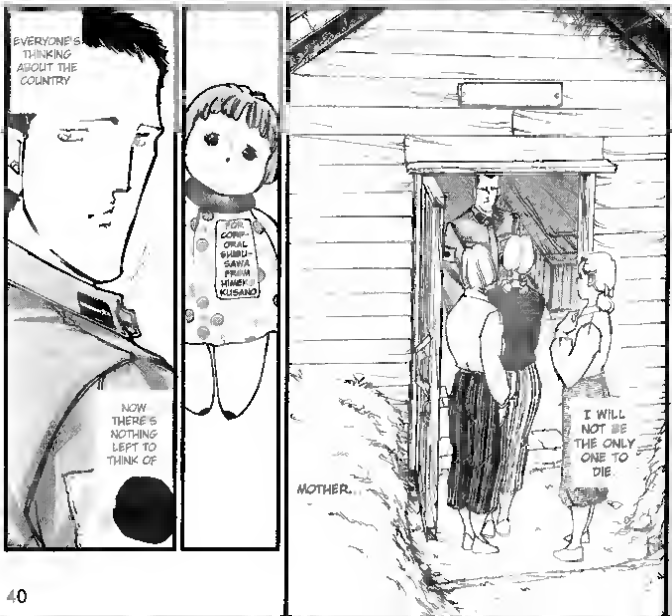
WE WON'T HAVE HELPING PLANES.
THIS MEANS THAT SINCE WE'RE CARRYING A 200 KG. BOMB... WE WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT OUR ENEMY.
NOW THE ENEMY HAS COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THE SKIES
WE WILL REACH THE ENEMY'S FLEET WITHOUT BEING NOTICED BY THEIR PLANES
AT FIRST, WE'LL GO EAST, YOU'LL HAVE TO FOLLOW ME CAREFULLY.
WE WILL FLY 10 METERS ABOVE THE SEA SO THEIR RADARS WON'T NOTICE US
AMERICANS HAVE BLUE EYES SO THE SEA ACTUALLY BOTHERS THEM.* THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE US FROM ABOVE.
LIKE A ROBOT?
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT I CAME TO THIS DECISION BY SIMPLY FOLLOWING THE MAJORITY?
AS SOON AS WE SEE THE ENEMY FLEET WE'LL GAIN ALTITUDE AND WE'LL FLY AGAINST THE SHIPS

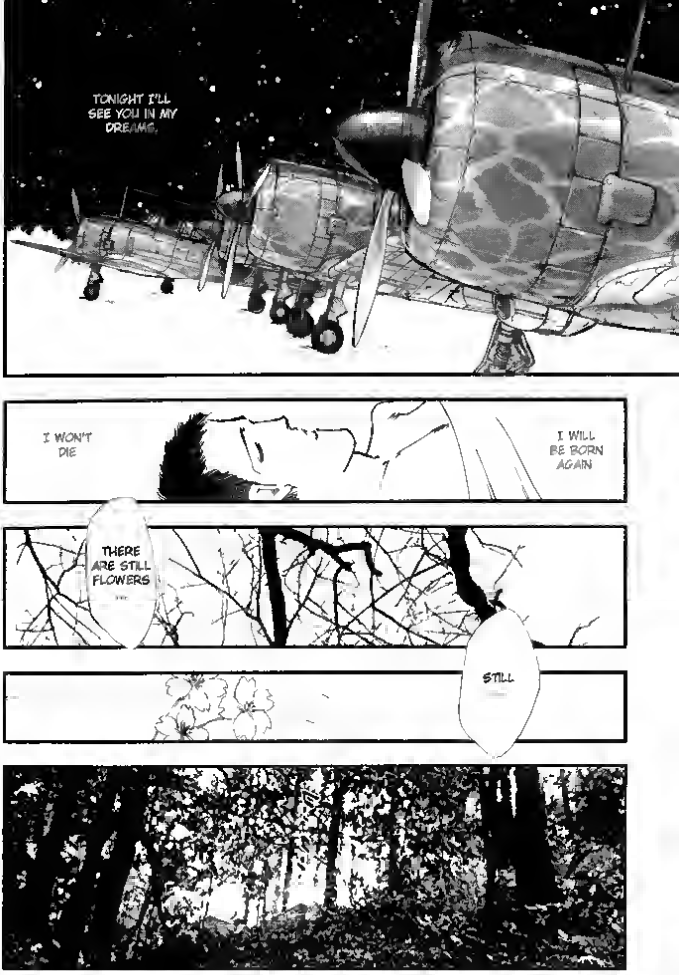
*THIS WAS A BELIEF THAT MOST JAPANESE HAD DURING WW2.

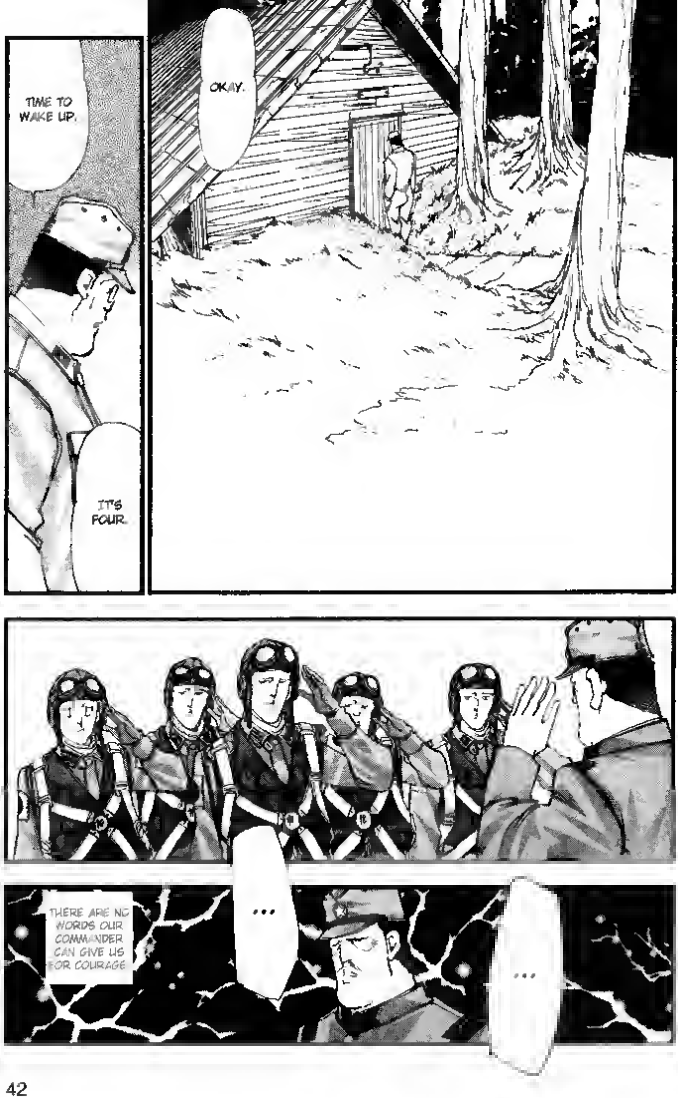
NOT HAVING ANY SUPPORT PLANES WITH US, OUR RESULTS WON'T REACH THE BASE
OUR BASE WILL GET THE NEWS THROUGH THE RADIO
DO YOU NEED ANY-THING LADIES?
WE JUST HEARD FROM MR NOGUCHI THAT YOU'RE LEAVING TOMORROW
YES
TOMORROW WE'LL BE FLYING WITH THE CLOTHES YOU WASHED


WE BROUGHT YOU SOME DOLLS...
WE CAN'T COME ON BOARD. SO TAKE THEM INSTEAD OF US

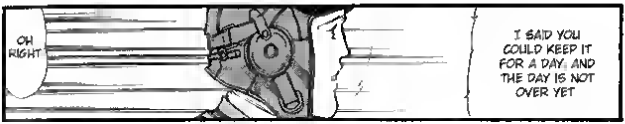
THANK YOU...
THEY'LL GIVE US COURAGE

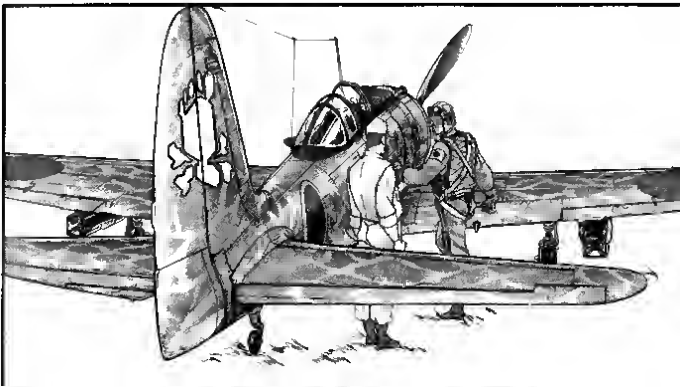

EVERYONE'S THINKING ABOUT THE COUNTRY
NOW THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO THINK OF
YORI COMPANY BUBU-SAWA PRIVATE HIMEY KUSANO
MOTHER...
I WILL NOT BE THE ONLY ONE TO DIE

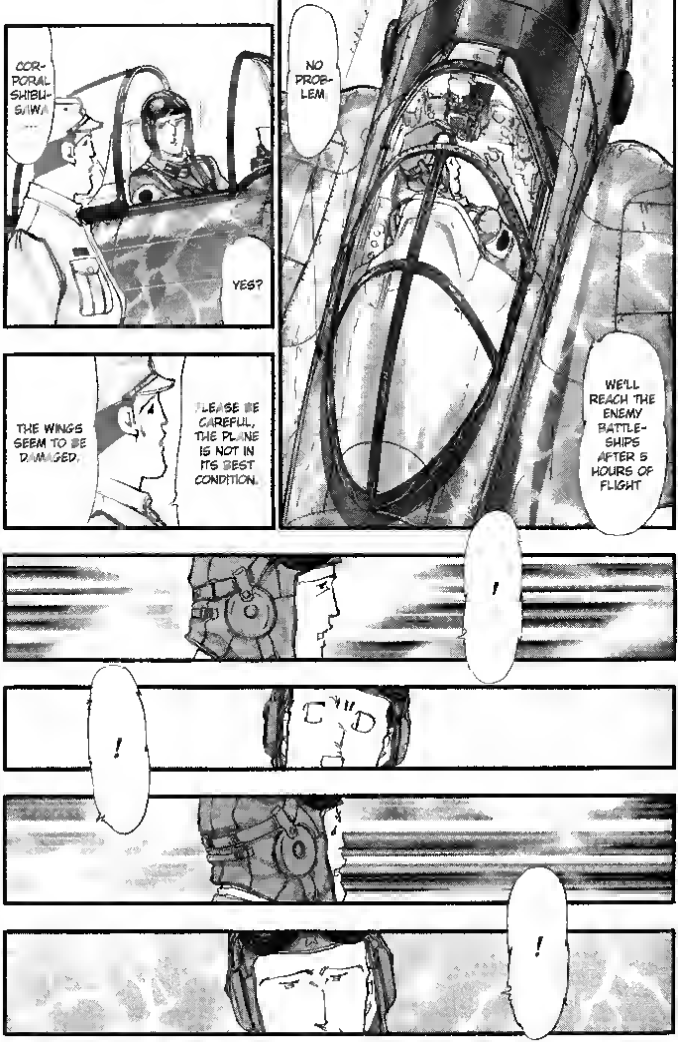

TONIGHT I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS.
I WON'T DIE
I WILL BE BORN AGAIN
THERE ARE STILL FLOWERS
STILL

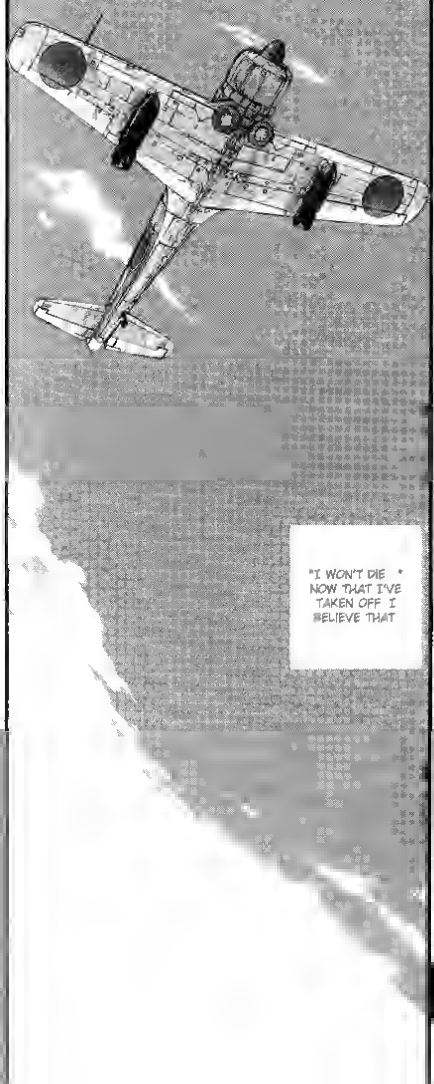

TIME TO WAKE UP.
IT'S FOUR.
OKAY.
THERE ARE NO WORDS OUR COMMANDER CAN GIVE US FOR COURAGE
...
...

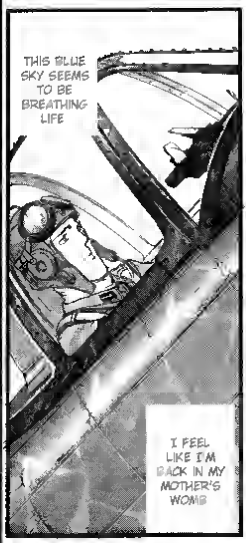
DAISUKE!
I STILL HAVE
THE PICTURE OF YOUR MOTHER!


OH RIGHT
I SAID YOU COULD KEEP IT FOR A DAY, AND THE DAY IS NOT OVER YET



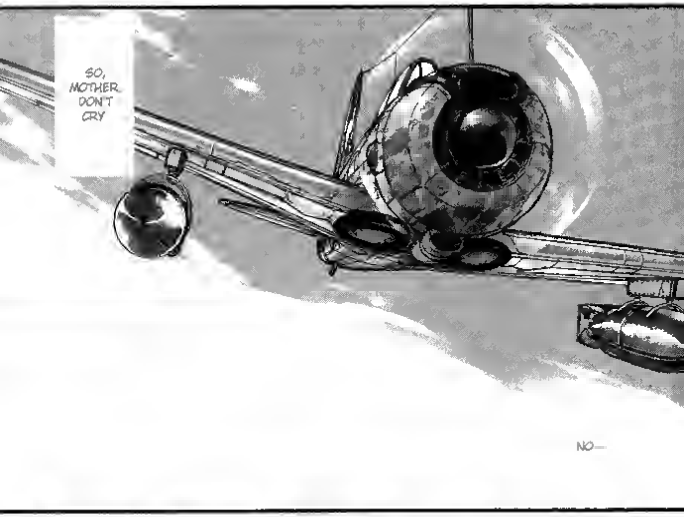

CORPORAL SHIBUSAWA ...
YES?
NO PROBLEM.
WE'LL REACH THE ENEMY BATTLESHIPS AFTER 5 HOURS OF FLIGHT
THE WINGS SEEM TO BE DAMAGED.
PLEASE BE CAREFULL, THE PLANE IS NOT IN ITS BEST CONDITION.
!
!
!


"I WON'T DIE NOW THAT I'VE TAKEN OFF I BELIEVE THAT


THIS BLUE SKY SEEMS TO BE BREATHING LIFE
I FEEL LIKE I'M BACK IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB

MOTHER, NEXT TIME I'M BORN
I'LL BE YOUR SON AGAIN

THIS GREAT SKY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TRIDENT'S TEARS
THEY BELONG TO THE EARTH


SO, MOTHER, DON'T CRY
NO—

TO BE HONEST ...
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CRY A LITTLE

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TSUBASA

by Ayumi Tachihara

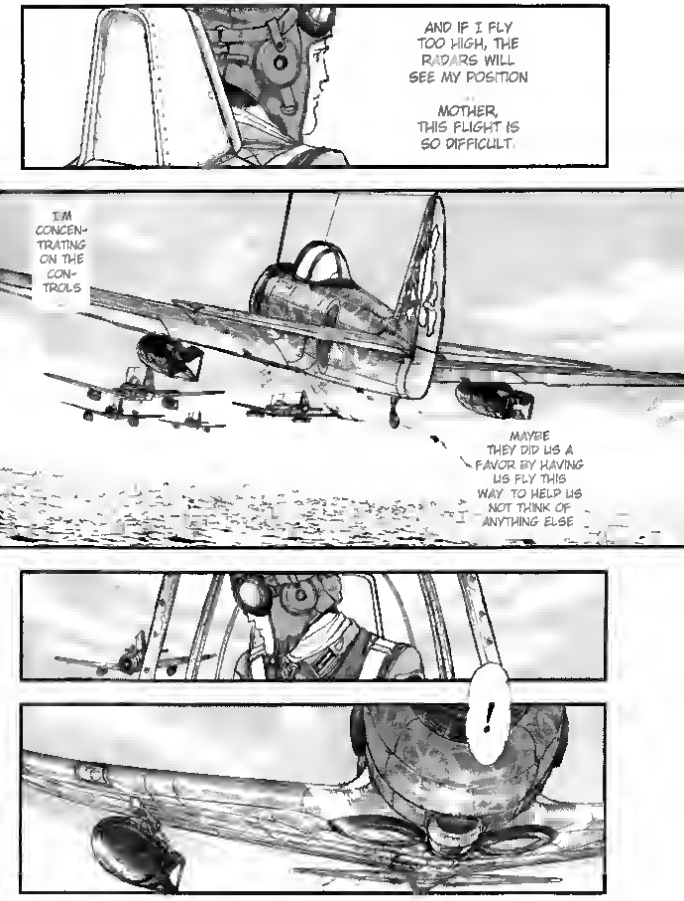
Chapter 2

NOTE:
READ THIS
MANGA
FROM LEFT
TO RIGHT.

Episode Two

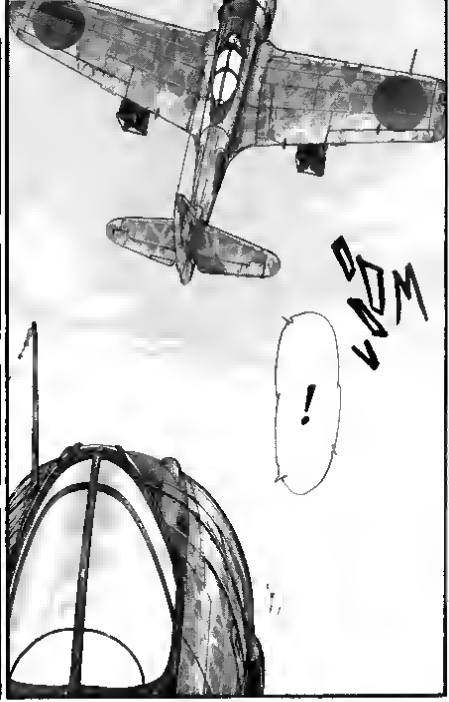
A Useless Death

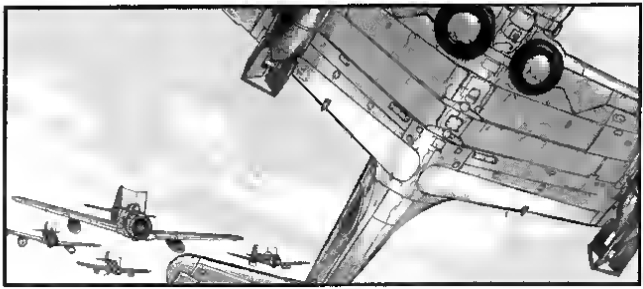
IF I GO DOWN TOO MUCH...
I WILL BE HIT BY THE WAVES...

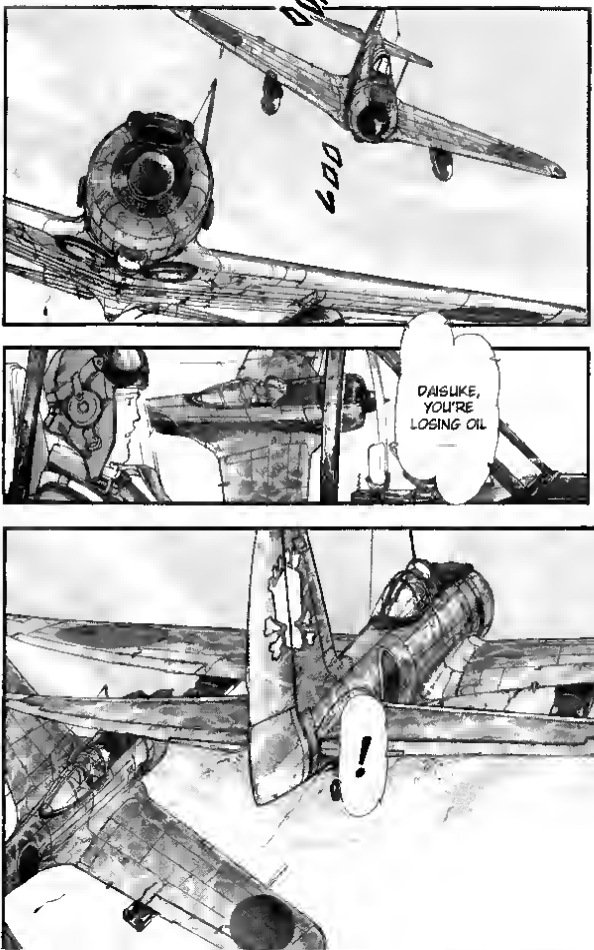

AND IF I FLY TOO HIGH, THE RADARS WILL SEE MY POSITION
MOTHER, THIS FLIGHT IS SO DIFFICULT.
I'M CONCENTRATING ON THE CONTROLS
MAYBE THEY DID US A FAVOR BY HAVING US FLY THIS WAY TO HELP US NOT THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE
!

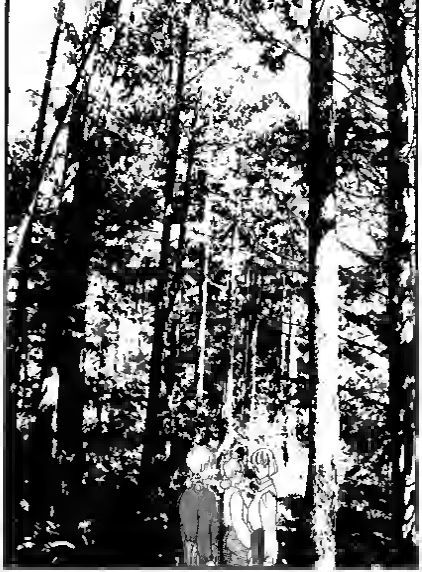
!

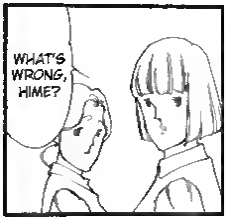
LIEU-
TEN-
ANT!


VROOM
!

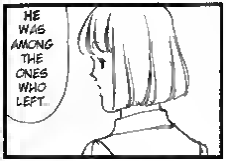



WOW
DAISUKE, YOU'RE LOSING OIL
!

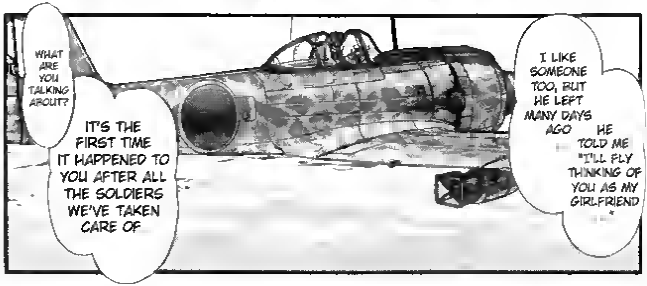



WHAT'S WRONG, HIME?

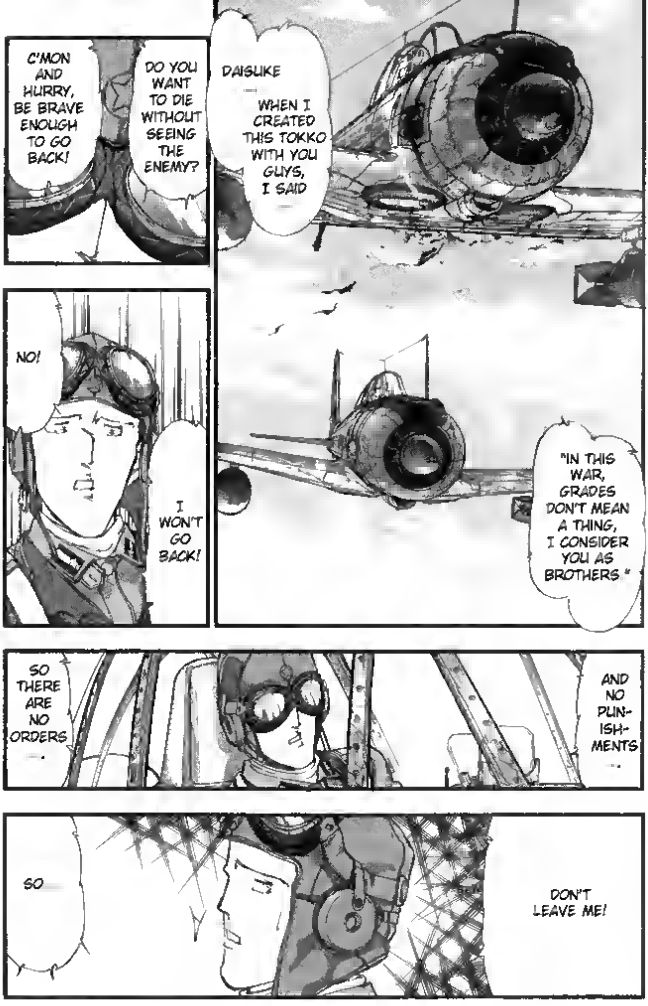
WHAT...?

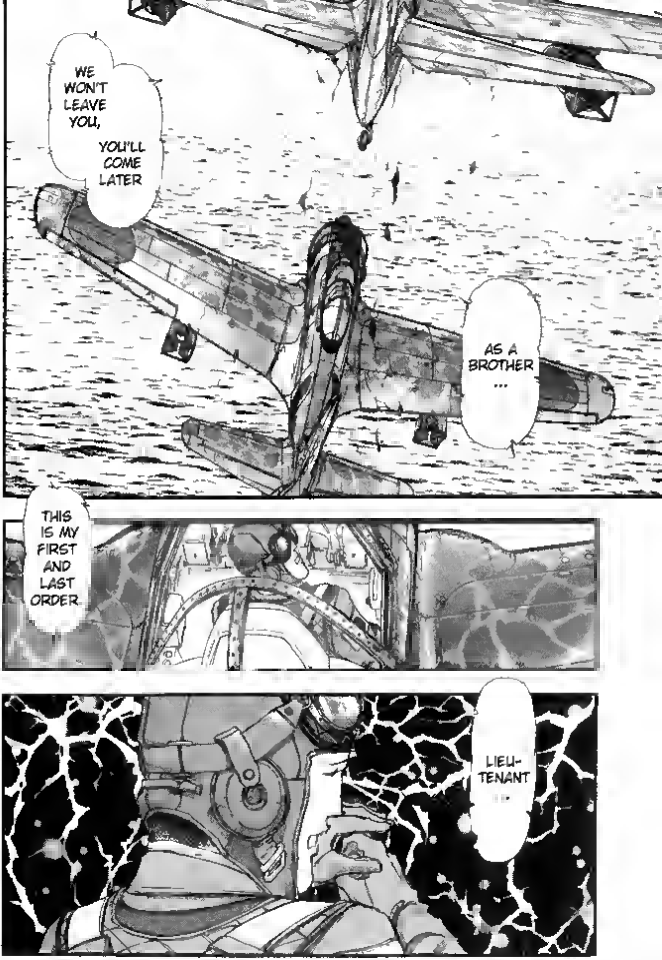

HE WAS AMONG THE ONES WHO LEFT.

WHO?
THE ONE YOU LIKE

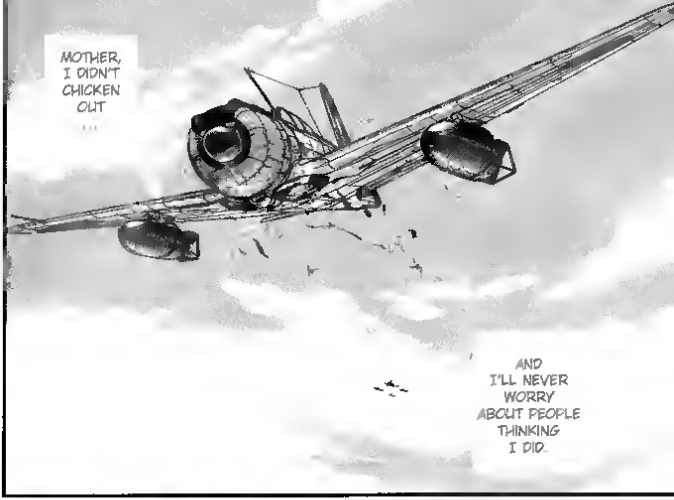

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S THE FIRST TIME IT HAPPENED TO YOU AFTER ALL THE SOLDIERS WE'VE TAKEN CARE OF
I LIKE SOMEONE TOO, BUT HE LEFT MANY DAYS AGO
HE TOLD ME "I'LL FLY THINKING OF YOU AS MY GIRLFRIEND

GO BACK, YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO DO IT!
W...
WHAT?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU WON'T EVEN REACH OKINAWA!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE IT...
I'LL MAKE IT LONG ENOUGH!
DO YOU WANT TO DIE LISELESSLY?
DIE LISELESSLY?


C'MON AND HURRY, BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO GO BACK!
DO YOU WANT TO DIE WITHOUT SEEING THE ENEMY?
DAISUKE
WHEN I CREATED THIS TOKKO WITH YOU GUYS, I SAID
"IN THIS WAR, GRADES DON'T MEAN A THING, I CONSIDER YOU AS BROTHERS."
NO!
I WON'T GO BACK!
SO THERE ARE NO ORDERS...
AND NO PUNISHMENTS...
SO...
DON'T LEAVE ME!


WE WON'T LEAVE YOU,
YOU'LL COME LATER
AS A BROTHER ...
THIS IS MY FIRST AND LAST ORDER
LIEU-TENANT ...

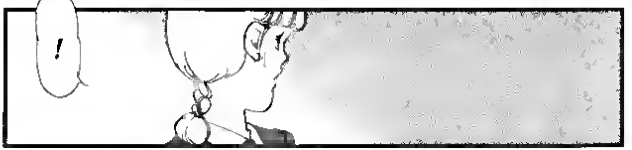
DON'T FORGET TO THROW THE BOMBS INTO THE SEA!
GOOD ...
LIEU-TEN-ANT!
THIS IS REAL COURAGE!


MOTHER, I DIDN'T CHICKEN OUT ...
AND I'LL NEVER WORRY ABOUT PEOPLE THINKING I DID.

THIS IS THE COURAGE THAT THE LIEUTENANT
NO, THAT MY BROTHER
TAUGHT ME

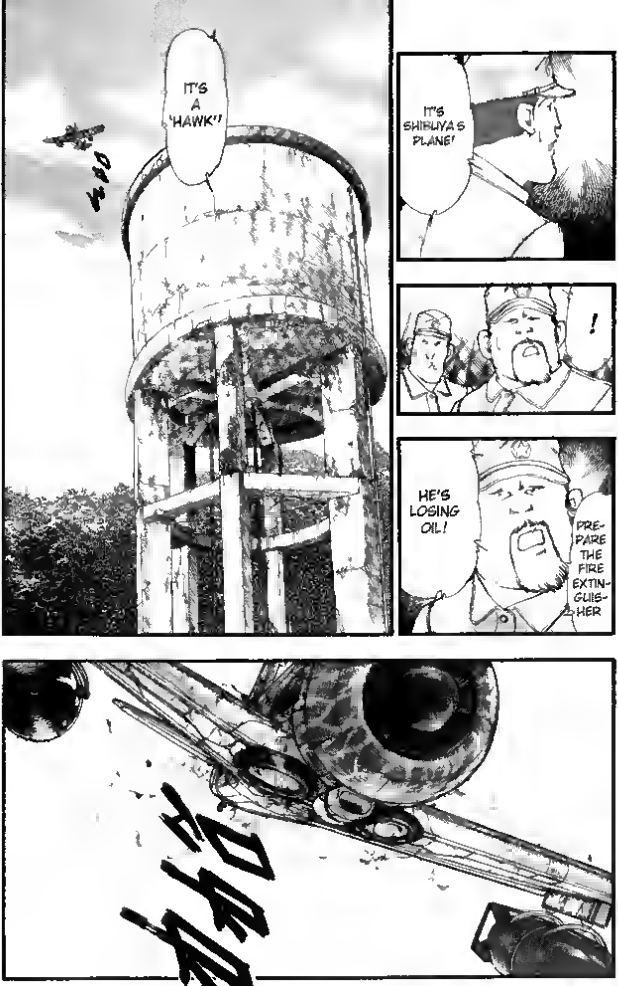
WHAT I HOPE NOW IS TO REPAIR MY PLANE AND TAKE OFF AGAIN
SO I WON'T THROW THE BOMBS ...

I WONDER HOW THE OTHER ONES
THAT'LL COME HERE WILL BE


!

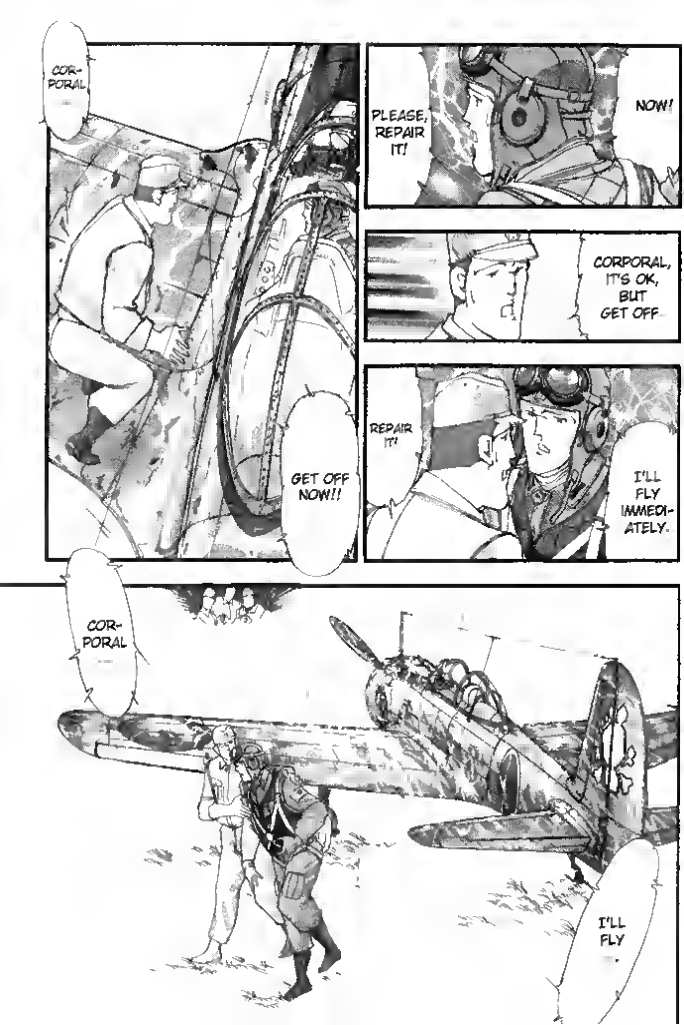
I WONDER HOW LONG WE'LL HAVE TO CRY

ZOOM

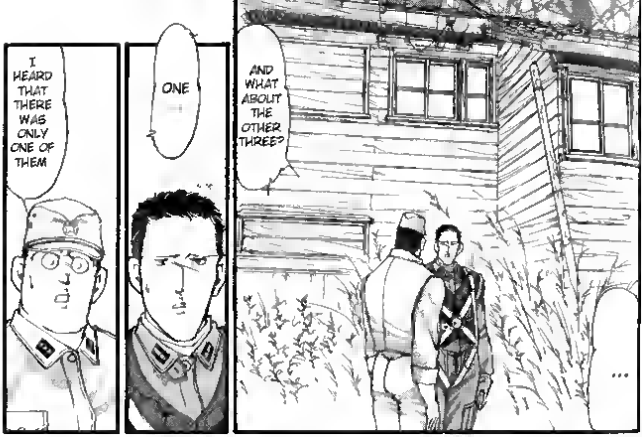

IT'S A 'HAWK''
GYAA
IT'S SHIBUYA'S PLANE!
!
HE'S LOSING OIL!
PRE-PAIRE THE FIRE EXTIN-GUIS-HER
GYAAA

STUPID, HE DIDN'T THROW THE BOMBS!
IF IT CAUGHT FIRE, WE'D BE DOOMED!
TO LEAVE ONCE AGAIN ...
CORPORAL!
JUNPEI, DON'T GET NEAR IT BEFORE THEY'RE DONE WITH THE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS!!

I LAND ...
ONCE AGAIN
CORPO-RAL!
RUN AWAY!


CORPORAL...
GET OFF NOW!!
PLEASE, REPAIR IT!
NOW!
CORPORAL, IT'S OK, BUT GET OFF
REPAIR IT!
I'LL FLY IMMEDIATELY.
CORPORAL...
I'LL FLY.

I WILL REPAIR IT
IMMEDI-ATELY!
...
CORPORAL, WE HEARD THE RADIO ABOUT THE TOKKO'S MISSION
THE NEWS
HOW MANY?


I HEARD THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE OF THEM
ONE
AND WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER THREE?
...

LT. KAMIYAMA, SGT. URAKAWA, CORPORAL FUKUSHIMA, CORPORAL HOSHIKAWA

I WOULD HAVE NEVER THOUGHT TO HEAR THE NEWS OF YOUR DEATHS, WHILE I'M STILL ALIVE!

WILL THE DEATHS OF THREE PILOTS BE CALLED "USELESS" —?
I'M GLAD I DON'T KNOW WHO SENT THE MESSAGE THROUGH THE RADIO

LET ME —
... FLY.

CORPORAL
MOTHER
MY BROTHERS ARE DEAD
YOUR PICTURE THAT I GAVE TO HOSHIKAWA
MOTHER, YOUR PICTURE DISAPPEARED BEFORE ME

Chapter 3

STORM IN HEAVEN

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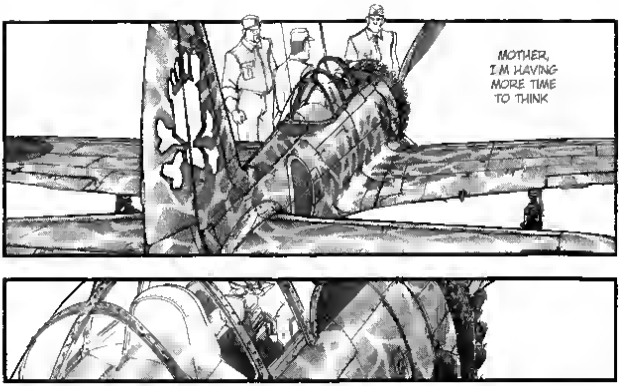
TSUBASA

NOTE

PLEASE
READ THIS
MANGA
FROM LEFT
TO RIGHT

Episode Three

Important


MOTHER, I'M HAVING MORE TIME TO THINK

I TOOK MY STEP FOR YOU ...
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE STEPS OF MY COMPANIONS?

LIEUTENANT KAMIYAMA SAID, "MY DEATH WILL BE A SHIELD FOR MY FIANCEE."
"I WON'T DIE FOR MY COUNTRY, YOU CAN'T DIE FOR NOTHING."
VRRR
BECAUSE I TOOK A STEP FOR YOU, MOTHER.
MAYBE HE SAID THOSE WORDS TO MAKE ME FEEL COMFORTABLE.
HE DID IT FOR THE COUNTRY
BUT I WONDER, WILL OUR ATTACK REALLY BE USEFUL?
THE LIEUTENANT SAID JAPAN WILL LOSE.
VRRR

IS THERE ANY SENSE IN THIS WAR IF WE KNOW WE'RE GOING TO LOSE?
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR SQUADRON?
AFTER I HEARD WHAT HE SAID ...
PLEASE TELL ME
HAS MY PLANE BEEN REPAIRED —?
NO, THE ENGINE HAS BEEN RUINED AS WELL
OUR BOSS SAYS IT'S INCREDIBLE IT KEPT ON FLYING.
IT WON'T BE REPAIRED SOON
AND EVEN IF IT IS, THERE WON'T BE A NIGHT ATTACK
WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO THE BARRACKS?

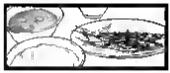
I CAN'T SLEEP WHILE YOU WORK NIGHT AND DAY, CAN I?
WE AREN'T PILOTS OF THE SPECIAL SQUADRON.
!
YOU FLY FOR US.
PLEASE SLEEP.
OK...
AS HE SAID, I'M A SPECIAL SQUADRON PILOT.
I DON'T HAVE TO BE IN A HURRY.

MINE IS A PRO-GRAMMED DEATH...
ONE I THOUGHT ABOUT DEEPLY

A DEATH IN ACTION

I HAVE NO DOUBTS ABOUT MY SUICIDE.
...

EXCUSE ME DINNER IS READY



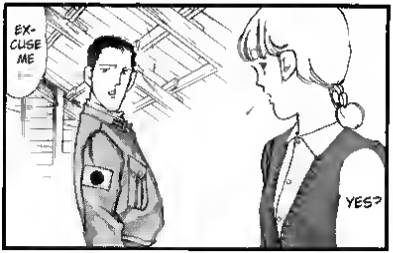
OH, THANK YOU.

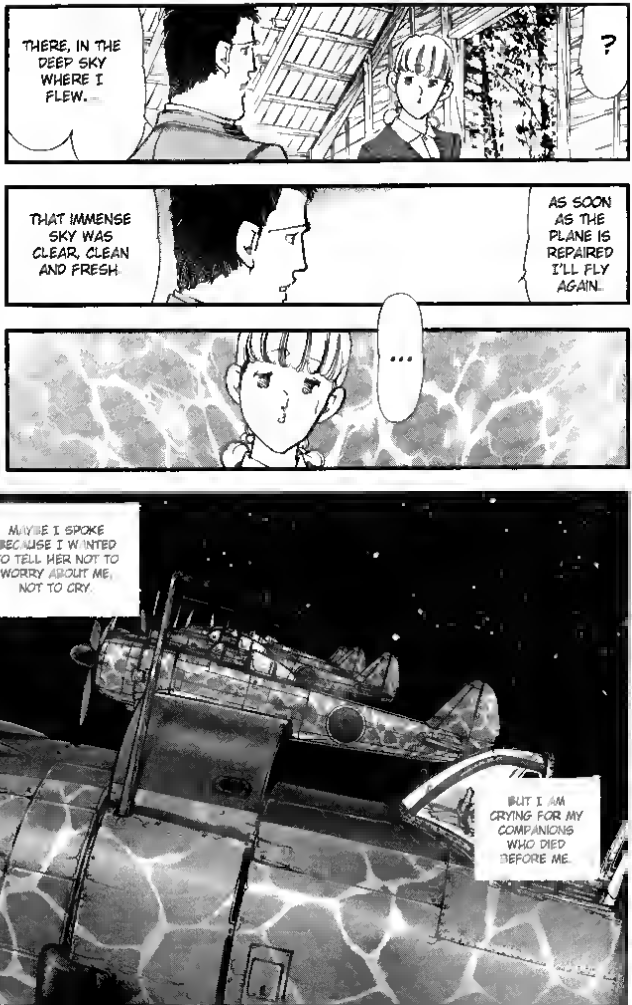
EXCUSE ME
YES?
WHY DON'T YOU COME AND SLEEP AT OUR PLACE?
?

IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME A SOLDIER DID,
AND MY MOTHER'S COOKING IS DELICIOUS

THANK YOU, BUT I'LL SLEEP HERE.

I SEE.


EX-CUSE ME
YES?


THERE, IN THE DEEP SKY WHERE I FLEW.
?
THAT IMMENSE SKY WAS CLEAR, CLEAN AND FRESH.
AS SOON AS THE PLANE IS REPAIRED I'LL FLY AGAIN.
...
MAYBE I SPOKE BECAUSE I WANTED TO TELL HER NOT TO WORRY ABOUT ME, NOT TO CRY.
BUT I AM CRYING FOR MY COMPANIONS WHO DIED BEFORE ME.

CRUSH
THE PLANE
IS IT READY YET?
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I CAME FOR
IT'S ABOUT KAMI-YAMA
!
HIS FIANCEE ARRIVED
WITHOUT THINKING, I TOLD HER THAT HE TOOK OFF YESTERDAY
THEN I ADDED THAT YOU CAME BACK SO NOW SHE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.

OKAY THEN.
SHE'S BEHIND THE OFFICE.
IF HE WOULD HAVE COME BACK,
AND MY MOTHER VISITED HIM ....
WHAT WOULD THE LIEUTENANT HAVE DONE, I WONDER?
WHAT SHOULD I TELL HER?

SORRY. YOU'RE DAISUKE, RIGHT?
AH... YES.
HE USED TO WRITE A LOT ABOUT YOU.
SAYING YOU WERE ONE OF HIS FOUR LITTLE BROTHERS.
HAD OUR LEAVE NOT BEEN PUSHED FORWARD, SHE COULD HAVE MET WITH HIM.
PLEASE, RUN AWAY FROM HERE!
!

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THIS WAR IS OVER

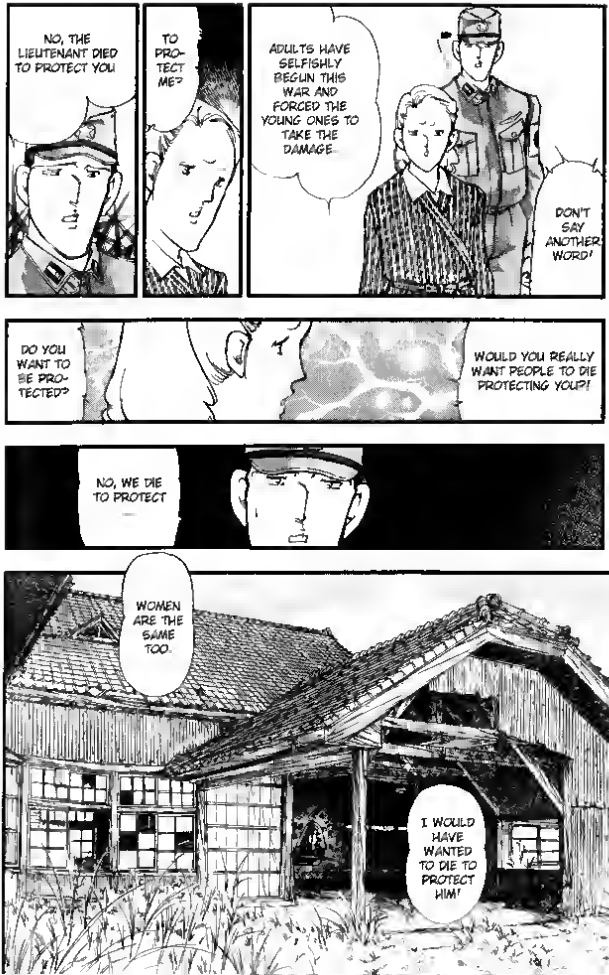
!

HE WROTE
THAT HE DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE ANY OF YOU WITH HIM.

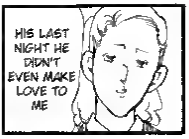
HE SAID YOU WERE ALL GREAT PEOPLE,
WHO DESERVED TO LIVE FOR THE FUTURE OF JAPAN

I CAN'T I PROMISED
THAT I'D FOLLOW HIM

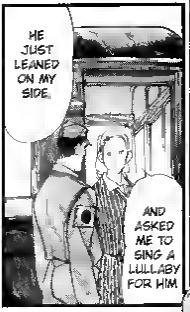
MEN ARE SELFISH.
THEY ALWAYS TRY TO DECORATE THEIR DEATHS WITH SOME 'ETERNAL CAUSE' WITHOUT THINKING OF THE PEOPLE THEY LEAVE BEHIND

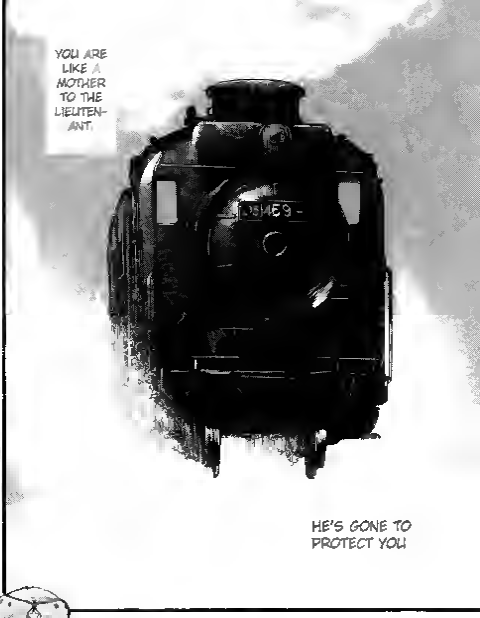

NO, THE LIEUTENANT DIED TO PROTECT YOU
TO PROTECT ME?
ADULTS HAVE SELFISHLY BEGUN THIS WAR AND FORCED THE YOUNG ONES TO TAKE THE DAMAGE.
DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD!
DO YOU WANT TO BE PROTECTED?
WOULD YOU REALLY WANT PEOPLE TO DIE PROTECTING YOU?!
NO, WE DIE TO PROTECT
WOMEN ARE THE SAME TOO.
I WOULD HAVE WANTED TO DIE TO PROTECT HIM!

HEY BOSS.
WHAT?
WE'RE WORKING HARD TO REPAIR THIS PLANE.
YES.
SO?
WHAT WE'RE HURRYING
IS THE DEATH OF CORPORAL SHIBUYA
FORGET ABOUT THAT!
WE HAVE TO FIX THIS MACHINE IN THE NAME OF THE COUNTRY, WITHOUT ANY MORAL DILEMMAS ABOUT IT.

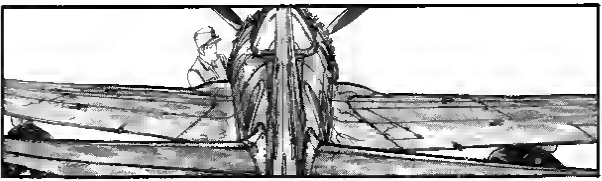

HIS LAST NIGHT HE DIDN'T EVEN MAKE LOVE TO ME

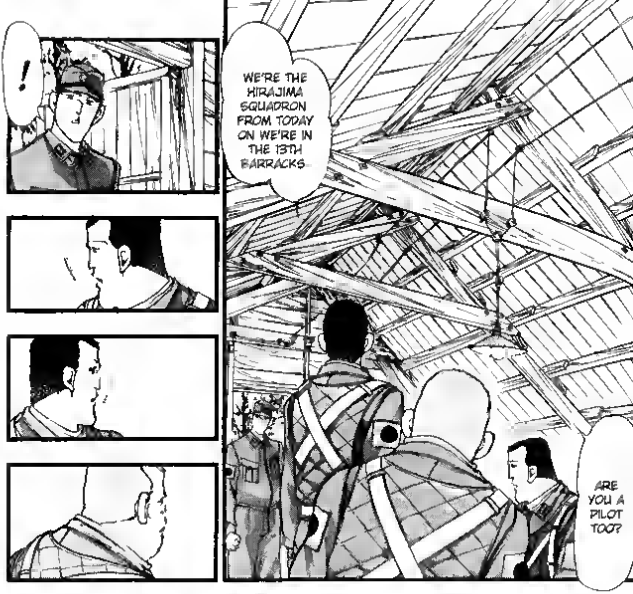
!


HE JUST LEANED ON MY SIDE.
AND ASKED ME TO SING A LULLABY FOR HIM.


YOU ARE LIKE A MOTHER TO THE LIEUTENANT.
HE'S GONE TO PROTECT YOU

BUT AS HIS MOTHER,
YOU PROTECT HIM WITH YOUR LOVE




!
WE'RE THE HIRAJIMA SQUADRON FROM TODAY ON WE'RE IN THE 13TH BARRACKS.
ARE YOU A PILOT TOO?

I'M ALSO
STAYING HERE.

?
YEAH, I HEARD AT HEADQUARTERS THAT SOMEONE RETURNED ALIVE.

HOW DID YOU MAKE IT?
WHAT?
ARE YOU HAPPY OR ISH,IMED?
NEITHER
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE A SURVIVOR DID YOU LOSE YOUR HONOR AS AN IMPERIAL SOLDIER?
IT IS BECAUSE OF MY HONOR THAT I CAME BACK!
HEY!

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TREAT HIM LIKE THIS.
NO, I...
DON'T WORRY, HE'S NOT...
HE'LL BE LE VING AGAIN.
HE WILL SAY FAREWELL ND LEAVE ONCE MORE.
SUICIDE FOR THE SECOND TIME.
PLEASE, TRY TO THINK HOW HE MUST BE FEELING.

CORPORAL SHIBUYA, I HAVE YOUR ORDERS
YES SIR!
WHEN YOUR PLANE IS REPAIRED YOU'LL TAKE OFF WITH US
YES SIR, I THANK YOU SIR
ALSO I HEARD YOU LANDED WITH THE BOMBS. IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE GRASS THAT RISK WOULD'VE BEEN GREATER
YOU SHOULD HAVE THROWN THEM INTO THE SEA.
BUT I THOUGHT THE BOMBS WERE IMPORTANT
YOUR LIFE IS MORE IMPOR-TANT

MY LIFE?!

RIGHT NOW YOU ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THIS COUNTRY. IT'S THE LIFE OF AN S.S. PILOT.
YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO DIE FOR JAPAN.

ALTHOUGH I'M A SPECIAL PILOT,
I FELT HAPPY THAT HE CONSIDERED MY LIFE IMPORTANT